



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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By: Sgt. Edward Eagerton

Alaska Air National Guard promotes commander

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska—The Alaska Air National Guard is promoting Col. Timothy O'Brien, assistant adjutant general-Air of the Alaska National Guard and commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, to the rank of brigadier general at a ceremony located at the Arctic Warrior Events Center here on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

"The Alaska Air National Guard consists of well over 2,000 citizen-Airmen of which I'm immensely humbled to lead and extremely proud to serve," O'Brien said.

As the commander of the Alaska Air National Guard, O'Brien ensures that the training and equipping objectives are met for the 176th Wing, based at JBER, and the 168th Air Refueling Wing, based at Eielson Air Force Base, both wings under his command.

O'Brien's career in the military started when he enlisted in the California Air National Guard in 1985 while attending Graduate School at California State University East-Bay in Hayward, Calif. His first assignment after completing Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, was with the 561st Air Force Band, California Air National Guard.

After completing graduate school in 1988, O'Brien received his commission as a second lieutenant. He was then assigned to the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard, as a student pilot that year. In 1989, he graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training in Fort Rucker, Ala., and began his career flying rescue helicopters.

His career would take him from California to Alaska, where in 1992 he joined the Alaska Air National Guard as a fulltime pilot with the 210th Rescue Squadron of the 176th Wing. Throughout the next 10 years, O'Brien would be credited with 109 lives saved while flying rescue missions over Alaska, as well as participate in numerous combat deployments such as Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Provide Comfort and Desert Storm.

In 2002, O'Brien accepted a staff assignment at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., where he would serve until 2005. During this time, he deployed as a combat rescue pilot to Afghanistan to augment his former unit, the 210th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air

National Guard. At the culmination of his time in Washington, D.C., O'Brien was selected to attend the War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., graduating in 2006 with a Master of Science in Strategic Studies.

In 2006, O'Brien returned to Alaska, accepting a command tour of the 210th Rescue Squadron. Under his command, the 210th Rescue Squadron would again deploy to Afghanistan for six months to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. In 2009, his unit received a grade of "excellent" on a Pacific Air Forces, Inspector General, Operational Readiness Inspection of the 176th Wing.

During the fall of 2009, O'Brien was selected to be the first ever Air National Guard commandant of the U.S. Air Force Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base. There, he was instrumental in forming the framework for the dual-status command of the combined active-duty Air Force and Air National Guard mission.

In 2011, O'Brien returned again to Alaska when he assumed command of the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks. After serving two years in command there, he was appointed as the assistant adjutant general-Air in 2013 and returned to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"This promotion is very meaningful to me and my spouse, Catherine," he said. "I'm thankful for the trust and faith our leadership has in me."

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What: Promotion Ceremony to Brigadier General for Colonel Timothy O'Brien

When: Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

Where: Arctic Warrior Event Center, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Media are invited and encouraged to attend this promotion ceremony. Please confirm your attendance with Maj. Candis Olmstead at 428-6030 or 891-2383. Plan to be at the JBER-Elmendorf Boniface gate off the Glenn Highway no later than 1:20 p.m., Sunday, March 2.